

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 EC BRU 02542 161733Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /094 W
-----170354Z 063723 /20

R 161541Z MAR 77
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
US MISSION GENEVA 7454

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2542

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB ICFTU AR SHUM
SUBJECT: SPECIAL ICFTU MISSION TO ARGENTINA

REF: (A) BEUONOS AIRES 1601, (B) BUENOS AIRES 1602

1. DURING BRIEFING SESSION FOR BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR
ATTACHES MARCH 16, OTTO KERSTEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION N OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU),
REPORTED ON HIS FEBRUARY VISIT TO ARGENTINA AS A MEMBER
OF A FIVE-MAN ICFTU DELEGATION. HE SEEMED LESS OPTIMISTIC
THAN BEFORE (REFTELS) ABOUT GETTING THE REGIME TO MAKE
CHANGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. HE BEGAIN THIS SECTION OF THE BRIEFING BY SAYING, "I
AM NOT YET CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL KEEP THEIR PROMISES."
LATER, HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THE JUNTA WOULD "KEEP ITS
PROMISES -- WELL, THEY WEREN'T QUITE PROMISES."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 EC BRU 02542 161733Z

3. "WE ARE WAITING FOR CRITICAL SIGNS ON TWO
ISSUES," KERSTEN SAID, "AND THOSE ARE TO RELEASE
PRISONERS AND TO GET RID OF THE SO-CALLED "INTER-
VENERS," THE MILITARY MEN ASSIGNED TO CONTROL
UNION ACTIVITY." (CHUCKLING, KERSTEN RECALLED THAT
IN A VISIT TO A UNION HEADQUARTERS HE TOLD A GROUP
OF UNIFORMED OFFICERS THAT THEY OUGHT TO GO BACK

TO THEIR MILITARY CAMPS, AND THEY REPLIED, "THE SOONER THE BETTER.")

4. ANOTHER ICFTU OBJECTIVE CITED BY KDERSTEN WAS TO PERSUADE THE REGIME "TO GIVE A POSSIBILITY TO EXILED PEOPLE TO RETURN." THE RESPONSE HE GOT ON THIS POINT, ACCORDING TO KERSTEN, WAS THAT THE REGIME WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS THE EXILE PROBLEM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. KERSTEN SAID HE FEARED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SCREENING OF RETURNEES WOULD BE TOO RIGID, THAT ITS DEFINITION OF "SUBVRSIVES" WOULD INCLUDE EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE ONLY EXPRESSED CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICY.

5. AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT, THE ICFTU DECIDED NOT TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE COMPLAINT TO THE ILO ON ARGENTINA, BUT IT MAY FILE ONE IF NO PROGRESS IS EVIDENT BEFORE MID-APRIL, KERSTEN SAID. THE ISSUE IS SURE TO BE A LIVE ONE AT HE NEXT ICFTU BOARD MEETING IN ROME MAY 18-20, BUT A DECISION ON WHETHER TO PRESS THE MATTER AT THE ILO WILL PROBABLY BE MADE BEFORE THEN, ACCORDING TO JOHN VANDERVEKEN, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ICFTU. HINTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU02542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0302
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770355/aaaabwie.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29f180b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUENOS AIRES 1602
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3095907
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL ICFTU MISSION TO ARGENTINA
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PORG, AR, ICFTU, (KERSTEN, OTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29f180b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009